

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 DECEMBER 1983

Israel

Israeli security forces detained 41 people for interrogation in the wake of the 6 December bomb blast on a bus in Jerusalem that killed 4 and wounded 46, Jerusalem radio reported. In a telephone call to AFP, the "Fatah Palestinian Movement-Revolutionary Council," a dissident organization opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, claimed responsibility for the attack and maintained that none of the "militants" who carried out the operation was among those detained. The agency also noted that the PLO had earlier claimed responsibility in a communique carried by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA. Meanwhile, a Palestinian spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo claimed responsibility on behalf of the "general command of the Palestinian revolution." Reacting to the bombing, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir promised the perpetrators "will be punished appropriately," according to IDF Radio.

PLO Affairs

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who heads the Coordination Committee entrusted with implementing the ceasefire agreement between warring Palestinian factions in Tripoli, announced that a final plan for the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters has been achieved and the necessary arrangements completed. In remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo, Karami stated that following the fighters' withdrawal from Tripoli, the responsibility for security in the city will be assumed by Lebanese Internal Security Forces in coordination with all local organizations, but refused to give further details of the withdrawal plan or arrangements. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir declared that 'Arafat and approximately 4,000 supporters will depart the city for Tunisia and the YAR aboard Greek ships that are expected in Tripoli "in the next few days," according to Beirut radio. Athens radio cited Beirut press reports that 'Arafat chartered five Greek ships to evacuate him and his men and that the UN Security Council agreed to allow the UN flag to fly on the ships in order to ensure the Palestinians' safety.

In another development, 'Arafat told the Jidda paper *AL-MADINAH* that the PLO is trying to establish a "Palestinian-Jordanian confederation," SPA reported. Commenting on the talks with Jordan, PLO Executive Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the London-based *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PLO and Jordan are trying to create a "political and military bloc capable of confronting the Israeli enemy," but reaffirmed that the two parties "refuse to allow Jordan to be a substitute home for the Palestinians."

Lebanon

U.S. Marines near Beirut airport responded to gunfire at their positions by returning fire and destroying the position from which the attack was launched, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese Army also came under fire and shelled hostile targets further east, inflicting "accurate hits" on several artillery and missile bases, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Earlier, the radio reported that the 4 December U.S. raid on Syrian positions destroyed 15 SAM bases and the headquarters of the Syrian 83d Brigade. The Syrians recently reinforced their contingent in Lebanon by deploying special units and a SAM-9 battalion in the Mount Sannin area, Voice of Lebanon radio said.

Meanwhile, Syrian and Israeli official sources did not confirm Lebanese radio reports that an Israeli warplane was downed over the Al-Biq'a valley and its pilot captured. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio claimed that Syrian air defenses downed an Israeli drone over the Al-Biq'a and said another Israeli drone was shot down inside Syria. In remarks reported by IDF Radio, the IDF spokesman acknowledged the downing of a pilotless plane in the Al-Biq'a but did not mention the loss of a second drone over Syria.

Algeria-USSR

Soviet First Deputy Defense Minister Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov arrived in Algiers and was received by Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algiers radio reported.

Afghanistan

During the week of 27 November-3 December "at least" 2,500 Soviet and "few" Afghan troops took part in a "major offensive" against guerrilla forces in the Shomali plain north of Kabul, AFP reported. Both sides suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, the agency added.

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Karmal Chairs PDPA Session on Land Reform

*LD062049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today at Revolutionary Council headquarters chaired the session of the PDPA Central Committee and Council of Ministers commission on continuing the implementation of land reform.

At this session, the draft amendment and [words indistinct] in Decree No 8 of the Revolutionary Council, law relating to land ownership, and regulation No 1 of Decree No 8 were discussed. In the draft, as supplements to Decree No 8 of the law relating to land ownership and regulation No 1 of Decree No 8, many facilities for peasants and for expediting land reform affairs under the present circumstances of the national and democratic revolution are envisaged.

In accordance with this draft, the legal difficulties which existed on the way for the speedy implementation of land reform are being removed, and the peasants can now easily obtain their land title deeds. A provision of the above draft amendment states:— The registration of lands within the specified limits and lands distributed to all peasants and land owners, who are receiving land title deeds, will take place free of charge.

One of the major and fundamental issues which has been proposed in the draft supplement No 2 of the Revolutionary Council's Decree No 8 is the formation of the village council of peasants. The village council of peasants will be elected by the village peasants at a general meeting. This council is the legal representative of the village's peasants for the solution of issues relating to the improvement of land utilization, [word indistinct] and to democratize land and water relations in the village, and will also resolve arguments arising from the implementation of land and water reform.

The above draft on the amendment and completion of a number of the provisions of Decree No 8, its No 1 regulation and land ownership law, was approved by the commission and was handed over to the DRA Council of Ministers so that its legal formalities are completed and implemented as soon as possible.

Babrak Karmal criticized the slow completion of land reform and gave instruction to the effect that by the application of the new draft, the system and methods of work should be rectified and the implementation of the democratic land reform should be expedited. Babrak Karmal instructed the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform to present a report to the party and government authorities on the work already carried out in the country regarding the completion of land reform. He urged that assistance be given to peasants via the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and Agricultural Development Bank.

According to the instructions of Babrak Karmal, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture and Land Reform, PDPA Central Committee's cooperatives and union of peasantry cooperatives, are dutybound to prepare and present a careful report on the methods of work and completed work in the field of agricultural and consumer peasantry cooper-

atives. Babrak Karmal said that the work of the party and government organs in the field of land reform, as well as work of the cooperatives, will be carefully investigated and assessed. The level of examination and expectation will be raised.

Babrak Karmal Receives CPSU's Khomyakov

*LD061847 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Text] At DRA Revolutionary Council headquarters this evening, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Khomyakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and first secretary of Tombov Oblast Party Committee, and his entourage and Yuriy Verchenko, first secretary of the USSR Union of Writers. USSR Ambassador in Kabul Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabarov was also present. During the meeting, which was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, fraternal and good relations between the DRA and the Soviet Union were discussed.

AFP Reports on 'Major' Soviet Offensive

BK061500 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6 (AFP) — At least 2,500 Soviet troops were engaged last week in a major offensive against increasingly united guerrilla forces in Afghanistan's strategic Shomali plain, Western diplomats said here.

Both sides suffered heavy casualties in a week of fighting which began with the arrival of Soviet troops escorted by several hundred tanks and armored vehicles in the Guldara valley, about 50 kms (30 miles) north of Kabul, the diplomats said.

The nearby villages of Estalef, Farza, Qarahsagh and Shakar Darra were bombarded by artillery and strafed by Soviet fighters, but diplomats said civilian casualties were limited because most villagers had fled to Kabul during earlier attacks.

The Soviets lost three helicopters and dozens of tanks around Guldara, where Moslem rebels had succeeded in mining fields and roads, according to Afghan sources cited by the diplomats.

Diplomats posted in Kabul said three trucks bearing wounded Soviet soldiers arrived last Thursday at a Soviet military hospital in the capital. Soviet troops were said to have withdrawn the following day from the region, but to be keeping up air and heavy artillery attacks.

Western military experts said last week's drive might be a last bid by Soviet forces to ease guerrilla pressure on the Bagram Airbase in the Shomali plain before winter. The region is of strategic importance to Soviet occupying forces which are supplied by convoys following the Salang Pass road from the Soviet border across the Shomali plain to Kabul.

Diplomats said few Afghan Government troops were employed in this most recent operation, an indication of the growing

strength of the resistance in the region. A resistance spokesman in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar said rebel groups in the Shomali plain had reunified after fierce in-fighting last spring which resulted in the elimination of leftist and fundamentalist Moslem factions.

The apparent strengthening of the resistance comes as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan neared its fourth year, and analysts said the rebels realised unity was their only chance in the face of Soviet military might.

AFP: General Flees to Pakistan, Another Killed

OW061812 Hong Kong AFP in English 1756 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 6 (AFP) — General Mohammad Rahim, commander of the Seventh Division of the Afghan Army in Kabul, has fled to Pakistan, it was learnt here said today.

Reliable sources said the general walked to Pakistan with his wife and children, aided by Afghan rebels from the Islamic National Front of Afghanistan, a moderate group led by Ahmad Gailani.

Gen. Rahim was (?reported) to have said the Afghan Army now numbered 35,000, against 100,000 when the Soviet Army entered Afghanistan four years ago. He said Afghan officers were treated "in a humiliating fashion" by their Soviet counterparts.

He added that during an operation he participated in last July in the Ghazni region south of Kabul, Soviet soldiers had taken more than 20 elderly people out of their houses and shot them down, the source said.

Meanwhile, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS, which is based here, reported today that Afghan rebels had killed Afghan General Abdul Qudduz Rashid on December 4 in Kabul.

Karachi Paper on Karmal Officer's Defection

GF061044 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu Dec 1 P 1

[Text] Peshawar, 30 Nov — An officer of the Karmal army belonging to the 22d Battalion has defected to the Afghan

mujahidin guerrillas. The defecting officer has also brought one T-54 tank and a quantity of arms with him.

According to an AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY report, the Karmal army officer stationed in Orgun, Lieutenant Said Mahmud Shah, was fired upon by Karmal soldiers when he left his unit and moved toward the mujahidin.

Orgun has been under mujahidin seige for the past 4 months. The tank he brought to the mujahidin was reported to be the last tank left at the Orgun Garrison.

The mujahidin guerrillas reportedly killed several Karmal soldiers and destroyed four Soviet tanks.

Fighting in Qandahar Province Described

GF061918 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 26 Nov 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Peshawar, 25 Nov (AAP) — The Afghan mujahidin downed two Soviet MiG's and one helicopter in Qandahar.

According to reports, in a clash lasting 3 days, the mujahidin killed 200 Karmal and Soviet soldiers and destroyed 7 Soviet tanks. In this fight 40 mujahidin were killed. The Soviet-Karmal soldiers had been sent to the area to end the mujahidin's control of the area. When met with mujahidin resistance, the Soviet-Karmal soldiers destroyed hundreds of houses and killed dozens of villagers. Many villagers were also wounded. This was the most savage operation conducted by government troops in the past 6 months.

According to the AAP, Soviet aircraft bombed villages in the Panjwai subdivision of Qandahar and 147 villagers were killed. Many women and children were among those killed.

According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a Karmal post near the cattle market in Qandahar. Six Karmal soldiers and two Parcham party members were killed in the attack.

Reportage on ICO Foreign Ministers Conference

Ershad Speech Cited

BK061429 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT
6 Dec 83

[Text] The 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference of the ICO began in Dhaka this morning. The inaugural session at the new parliament building was presided over by the outgoing chairman and foreign minister of Niger, Mr Ide Oumarou. Proceedings of the conference began with the recitation from the holy Koran.

The chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, formally inaugurated the 5-day conference with a call to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of Islam. In his speech, General Ershad stressed the need for rebuilding Islamic unity and solidarity on a strong footing. He said Islamic cooperation in different fields is essential in bringing us closer to each other and strengthening the Islamic unity and solidarity. He maintained that such cooperation is the bedrock on which we can build our political strength. The CMLA said the Islamic world is rich in resources and talents, and there are many ways in which we can help each other become self-reliant as well as help the world's (?poor). He reiterated that there is one fundamental prerequisite for the Islamic world to regain its position of preeminence and that is to preserve the unity and solidarity of the Islamic ummah [community].

The Bangladesh leader, however, regretted that disarray and the disunity of the Islamic world has sapped our energy. As long as these divisions exist, the capacity of the Islamic world to play its legitimate role in international affairs is bound to be seriously hindered. Our security, economy, and Islamic ways of life have already been placed in jeopardy. Gen Ershad said as a result of these divisions and rivalries the Muslim ummah has already suffered immensely. Today the Palestinians have no home of their own and their basic fundamental rights have been denied. Israel continues to be in illegal occupation of Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem; foreign troops are still in Afghanistan; the Turkish Cypriots are being denied their rightful claim to a bizonal federal state; and Chad remains in turmoil; and the problems of the Western Sahara are yet to be resolved.

The CMLA emphasized that the Islamic world cannot in these difficult and dangerous times remain a passive spectator. We must defend the principles of the UN Charter, he said. We should also oppose foreign intervention and must speak out boldly against apartheid and make the renewed efforts for the independence of Namibia. The voice of the Islamic ummah must be heard loud and clear for a just and equitable international order to ensure our life of peace and dignity. Gen Ershad said we should pay specific attention to the problems of the group of least developed countries. We should examine how to expand private investment throughout the Islamic world and no doubt should encourage the Islamic Development Bank to play and expand its role in this respect. It is also necessary to have closer ties with each other and open more diplomatic missions in each other's countries and increase our trade and help each other wherever possible.

The CMLA expressed the hope that the current 5-day meeting will make valuable contributions to the fourth Islamic summit due to take place in Morocco next month. We should give special care throughout as to how the ICO can be strengthened so that it can play a more effective and meaningful role to strengthen Islamic unity and solidarity.

Referring to the Islamic heritage in Bangladesh, the CMLA said the people of this country attached the highest importance to our relations with the Islamic world. It is this Islamic legacy which prompted us to exert ourselves fully in the Islamic world and devote in the strengthening of the Islamic cooperation and working for Islamic unity and solidarity. [sentence as heard] The CMLA concluded his speech with an Ayat [stanza] from the holy Koran.

Immediately after the CMLA's address, three heads of delegations taking part in the conference gave votes of thanks. They were the Saudi state minister for foreign affairs, Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, on behalf of the Arab countries; the Indonesian foreign minister, Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, on behalf of the Asian group; and from the African zone the Sierra Leone foreign minister, Dr Abdulai Osman Conteh.

The Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, has been elected chairman of the 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference. The PLO and Male were elected vice chairmen, and the outgoing chairman, Mr Ide Oumarou of Niger, rapporteur general of the conference.

Benin Admitted as Member

BK061657 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
6 Dec 83

[Text] Benin has been admitted as the 44th member of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. A spokesman for the ICO secretary general told newsmen at the conference, media center in Dhaka this evening that today's plenary session formed four committees. These are political and information, economic and social affairs, cultural and Islamic affairs, and administrative and financial affairs committees. The committees are to start work from tomorrow.

The ministerial-level Islamic solidarity committee on African Sahel is also to meet tomorrow to discuss measures toward (?easing) the economic problems of the Sahel region. The plenary session was discussing the report of the senior officials' committee on conference agenda when reports last came in.

Vice Chairmen Elected

BK071036 Dhaka BSS in English 0950 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 7, BSS — The foreign minister of Mali Mr Alioune Blondin, and head of the delegation of Palestine Liberation Organization Mr Jamulus Sobhani [name as received], were elected vice chairmen of the 14th Islamic Conference of foreign ministers which began here yesterday.

The conference elected Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha as the new chairman.

The out-going chairman of the conference and foreign minister of Niger Mr Ide Oumarou was elected rapporteur general of the 14th conference.

Yaqub Khan Addresses Session

*BK071116 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
7 Dec 83*

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said that only by collective and concerted action the Islamic world could stand up to the challenges faced by it. Addressing the plenary session on the 2d day of the foreign ministers conference of the Islamic states in Dhaka today, he expressed his firm belief that the security of Islamic ummah [community] is a paramount importance for all of us and a threat to one Islamic nation must be treated as a threat to all.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said regrettably the Islamic world today is torn by the dissensions, conflicts, and even futile wars. The [words indistinct] Palestine and Afghanistan are victims of intervention and occupation in the absence of unity and collective resolve to face the common threats to the Muslim ummah. The steady deterioration in the political and security climate, failure of detente, and new arms race have brought the world to the brink of disaster. Renewed East-West rivalry has led to the increasing use of force in international affairs and a determined effort by superpowers to involve the Third World and the Muslim states in fulfillment of their global and strategic objectives. The violation of sacrosanct principles of noninterference and noninterven-

tion in the affairs of sovereign states threaten independence and integrity of small nations.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said we salute the valiant Palestinian people for their heroic struggle. Support to this just struggle of the Palestinian people is an article of faith and the commitment of the people of Pakistan. We have followed with deep anguish and anxiety recent developments in north Lebanon. We consider it the duty of this conference to rise with responsibilities and call for an immediate end to fratricidal clashes in north Lebanon.

Pakistani, Iranian Ministers Meet 6 December

*BK061630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Text] The Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, had a meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in Dhaka today. He briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan. He said the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, will visit Pakistan, Iran, and Kabul next March.

The foreign ministers of the two countries also exchanged views on bilateral cooperation. They stressed the need to institutionalize cooperation between the two countries. The Radio Pakistan correspondent understands that the two foreign ministers also exchanged views on regional issues.

The Pakistani foreign minister also met with the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Jameel, in Dhaka yesterday. He was told that the regional conference of South Asian foreign ministers will be held in the Maldives in the middle of next year.

Commission Meeting With USSR Begins 6 Dec*BK061130 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Text] The eighth session of the Indo-Soviet joint commission on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation began in New Delhi today. It is to discuss Indo-Soviet cooperation in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machine building, irrigation, oil, and electronics. Special emphasis will be laid on energy projects.

The Indian delegation is led by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, while the Soviet delegation is headed by the first deputy prime minister, Mr Arkhipov.

The commission will also review the progress made in the ongoing economic projects and will identify further areas of cooperation.

Mr Arkhipov, who arrived in New Delhi last night, called on Mr Rao in the morning. He also visited Rajghat and placed a wreath at Gandhiji Samadhi.

Rao, Arkhipov Call for Steps To Stop Arms Race*BK070655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
7 Dec 83*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have called for urgent steps to halt the arms race. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Arkhipov, in New Delhi last night, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, referred to the escalating tension in many areas and growing menace of a nuclear war. Mr Rao said the situation has further worsened because of the atmosphere of distrust, suspicion, and breakdown of political dialogue. He said that India wants the restoration of trust and a return to the path of reconciliation.

In his reply, Mr Arkhipov said that the Soviet Union favors limitation of nuclear weapons. But we have been compelled, he said, to opt out of the Geneva talks by the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. Mr Arkhipov said that if the United States and NATO members are ready to restore the situation in Europe as prevailed prior to the deployment of U.S. Pershing missiles, the Soviet Union will reciprocate. He lauded the efforts made by India to preserve international peace. He said his country greatly respects the moves made by Mrs Gandhi to prevent a nuclear war.

Venkataraman Reiterates Nuclear Energy Policy*BK061057 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has reiterated that India is committed to the policy of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He told the Rajya Sabha today that the country is in a position to face any challenge. He said the country is obtaining defense equipment from several countries on merit.

Mr Venkataraman said he had already visited some countries for the purpose. India is (going) to buy some defense equipment, including Sea Harrier aircraft.

Replying to a spate of supplementaries, the defense minister said Pakistan is trying to develop its own capacity for enrichment of Uranium. India has information that Pakistan's program for enrichment has suffered a setback. About Pakistan's attempt to produce plutonium at the Karachi nuclear plant for manufacture of atom bombs, Mr Venkataraman said it is unlikely that this plant would produce sufficient quantity of plutonium in a short time.

Plea To Ask Bhindranwale To Leave Turned Down*BK070659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
7 Dec 83*

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has turned down the home minister's appeal to make Mr Bhindranwale quit the Guru Nanak Niwas in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. The appeal was made in parliament on Monday. In a statement in Amritsar, Mr Longowal said Gurdwara [Sikh shrine] is open to all without any restriction and to ask Mr Bhindranwale to leave would amount to enforcing restrictions.

Home Minister Comments on Refugees in Assam*BK071022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
7 Dec 83*

[Text] The home minister has said that full protection will be given to genuine refugees in Assam while detecting foreign nationals. Mr P.C. Sethi told the Lok Sabha today that tribunals now being set up in the state are fully empowered to take decision on the basis of documents. Adequate provisions have been made in the illegal migrant determination by tribunals, though it will come up before the house for consideration. So far 20 tribunals have been set up. The state government decided to set up one tribunal each in every assembly constituency.

In reply to a question, Mr Sethi said the government is prepared to set up such tribunals, if necessary, in other states having the problem of foreign infiltrators.

Mr Sethi informed the house that over 380,000 foreign nationals have been detected so far in Assam. Barring about 60,000 such immigrants, the rest have been deported. Cases of about 60,000 such people are pending in courts.

In a written reply, the minister of state for home, Mr N.R. Laskar, said the Bihar Government has reported about the entry of foreign nationals into Purnea and Katihar Districts. He said border security force has (been) strengthened and border outposts increased.

'Grave Concern' Expressed Over Lebanon Fighting

BK061437 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
5 Dec 83

[Text] Pakistan has expressed grave concern over the escalation in fighting in Lebanon following yesterday's attacks by American aircraft against Syrian-held positions and stressed the imperative need for restraint by all concerned. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the reported political and military accord between Israel and the United States could not but have very deleterious consequences for peace and stability in the region. The United States planes again made reconnaissance flight over Beirut today.

Soviet Ambassador Delivers Message to Zia

BK070729 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
7 Dec 83

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Smirnov called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening. He conveyed a message from the Soviet leadership, giving their views about the grave international situation arising from the increase in nuclear weapons installations. The Soviet ambassador discussed with the president prospects for expanding economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union and other matters of mutual interest. It was hoped during the talks that the forthcoming visit of Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan will yield concrete results in this connection.

Spokesman on India's Refusal To Lease Property

BK061150 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
5 Dec 83

[Text] Pakistan has received with surprise and dismay the report that the Indian Government no longer intends to lease the Jinnah House in Bombay for the consulate general of Pakistan. If it is correct, it would amount to a breach of commitment that has been reconfirmed in the two statements of the Indian minister for external affairs in the Indian parliament.

A Foreign Office spokesman in a statement said in Islamabad today that combined with the earlier refusal of the Indian Government to permit the Pakistan Government to lease a plot of land in Bombay for the construction of consulate premises, nonfulfilment of the pledge regarding the Jinnah House would demonstrate a design to frustrate the establishment of the Pakistan Consulate General. The spokesman added such lack of cooperation would be inconsistent with the principle of reciprocity and the provisions of the 1963 Vienna convention of consular relations.

The spokesman further pointed out that accepting the Indian promises of cooperation, Pakistan in anticipation permitted the Indian Government to open its consulate general in Karachi and for the last 5 years the Indian Government has been enjoying this facility unilaterally.

The spokesman added:— Pakistan continues to hope that India would fulfill its obligations under the Vienna convention and the

assurance given to Pakistan on this subject to enable the Pakistan Government to open its consulate general in Bombay. He said the refusal to lease the Jinnah House for the Pakistan Consulate General is bound to undermine the credibility of India's commitment.

THE MUSLIM Views Relations With India

GF061446 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Nov 83 p 4

[Editorial: "What Is India Up To?"]

[Text] For some time past, Pakistan has been subjected to a sustained barrage of provocative propaganda from New Delhi. The latest Indian blast is directed against the banquet hosted by President Ziaul Haq at Gilgit in honour of the heads of foreign missions in Pakistan. The minister of law and parliamentary affairs has dismissed the protest as unwarranted interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. He told member of the Majlis-i-Shoora that the northern areas are being administered by Pakistan for the last 36 years and India has no locus standi in the matter. This position is wholly in line with this country's traditional stand on the Kashmir issue and fully accords with the letter and spirit of the SIMLA Agreement. The minister recalled that in the past too Islamabad had brushed aside similar protests from India — and on the same grounds — when the Karakoram Highway was under construction and when a few observers from the northern areas were inducted into the Majlis-i-Shoora.

India's churlish reaction to the Gilgit banquet could have been ignored as a perfunctory diplomatic exercise but for the fact that it has been preceded by a string of statements (and actions) by Indian leaders which tend to give an impression of a carefully orchestrated campaign against Pakistan. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi herself fired the first broadside with her statement that appeared calculated to encourage the agitation in Sind. This was followed by a staggering and totally unsubstantiated charge that Pakistan was stoking up trouble in the strife-torn Indian Punjab a theme which her son has now embroidered with the further detail that saboteurs are being smuggled into that state after a stint of training in Punjab and Kashmir. And to round off this campaign of slander and intimidation, the Indian prime minister has now been pleased to declare that India is faced with a threat of war from Pakistan.

It is, to say the least, highly unfair and uncharitable to level such unfounded charges against a country which has, in recent years, taken several initiatives to banish the bitterness of the past and build durable good-neighbourly relations with India. President Ziaul Haq made the first friendly gesture when he made a stopover in New Delhi to meet Mrs. Gandhi on his way to certain South-East Asian countries. In a further effort to reassure India of its peaceful intentions, Pakistan offered a no-war pact, and it did not object when New Delhi countered with a proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation. It also readily agreed to Mrs. Gandhi's suggestion for the establishment of a joint commission to speed up the process of normalisation and solemnly assured its neighbour that it was neither fabricating an atomic bomb nor had agreed to the siting of foreign bases on its territory — two other charges which India has been periodically flinging in Islamabad's face.

Over and over again Pakistan has categorically rejected all allegations and insinuations that it is assisting militant Sikh groups in the Punjab. It is plainly not in the interest of this country to fan the flames of agitation in a stormy state on its borders. And it surely has not taken leave of its senses to plan an attack on an immeasurably bigger and more powerful neighbour. Apparently, Mrs. Gandhi is conjuring up the spectre of Pakistani aggression to deflect domestic public opinion from her own mounting troubles at home and perhaps also to bolster her chances in the upcoming general election by projecting an image of strong and vigilant leadership. Or is it a prelude to something more ominous in the offing? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, whatever her motivations, it would be a tragedy if Pakistan's sincere and friendly overtures were to be swept away in a spate of reckless statements by India's top leaders.

MRD Leader Rules Out Talks With Government

GF061525 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Nov 83 p 1, 10

[Report by staff reporter Mahmood Zaman: "No Talks With Government, Says MRD Leader"]

[Text] Lahore, Nov. 18: Maulana Mohammed Shah Amroti, convener of the nine-party opposition alliance, has ruled out negotiations with the government and opposed the holding of elections on non-party basis.

The people of Pakistan, he said, wanted immediate transfer of power and will not be content with anything less than that. He also made it clear that the sooner power is transferred the better, as the people are not fighting merely for exerting pressure for a political bargain with the regime or seeking certain concessions. According to him the fight was also not for realising certain economic gains adding that "it is a national movement aimed at seeking democratic rights and justice for the people of Pakistan."

Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti was talking to this correspondent on Thursday night at Jamia Madnia where he spent two nights after having reached Lahore. In the morning he presided over the meeting of the MRD Central Committee, which extended his tenure of the office of convener "till such time that the MRD demands are met and the objectives of the movement are realised."

The maulana spoke high of the movement adding that "we have gained political maturity which is now spreading all over the country." He was of the view that with such a political awakening no martial law could be envisaged in future. The maulana while replying to a question said the MRD was fully aware of the possibility of the time-frame of the movement as he was convinced that such movements go on for years altogether. He said, we are prepared for a long struggle adding that in case power was not transferred early and peacefully, it will lead to a situation detrimental to the country's interest and a stage when political parties and their leaders would become redundant. He said this was the first movement against martial law, plus it was without any resources.

The maulana was particularly perturbed about the situation in Sind observing that "there is no change in affairs." He denied that the number of political prisoners in the country was about 4,000. He said the number alone in Sind was much higher, of whom about 3,000 were from Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam.

Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti emphasised the point that it was MRD which was checking the movement from going into the hands of extremists and was fighting purely on political front.

The maulana denied that there was violence in Sind and that the MRD had planned to cut the national highway, adding that the MRD believed in a peaceful struggle and it had decided on courting of arrests only. But it was the regime which had closed every avenue of manifesting political grievances in a peaceful way and curbed politics, he said. He said that by transferring headquarters of various federal government departments, like civil aviation, minerals, and PIA, [Pakistan International Airlines], to Islamabad, a wrong impression was being created.

Ruling out negotiations with the government, the convener of the 9-party opposition alliance said, the MRD had a clear stand on the issue. He said holding of talks with the regime would mean to strike a bargain on the announcement of Aug. 12 under the principle of "give and take" whereas MRD had nothing to offer to the regime. MRD would not compromise on principles as it feels that this is the right of the people of Pakistan, he added. Another reason of not holding talks with the government, he said, was that it had lost credibility owing to its past conduct. The regime would have to first restore confidence for which it will have to reopen political channels. Explaining the maulana said that the regime should lift curbs on political parties and allow political activities as a first step towards normalisation of political atmosphere. However he was not hopeful of any such measures and regretted that instead of bringing normalcy the regime had now resorted to violent tactics.

The maulana opposed elections on non-party basis and said that local bodies or provincial elections even on political parties basis would not solve the problems. For the settlement of issues, he continued, national elections would have to be held with all political parties taking part in it. Anything other than that would be a futile exercise, he observed. He reiterated that MRD would boycott elections if held on modes other than the demand of MRD and other political parties.

He affirmed that the MRD was struggling for saving Pakistan and it would continue to do so till the cherished goal was achieved.

Paper Criticizes Fiscal, Monetary Policies

GF061718 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Nov 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Soaring Prices"]

[Text] Pakistan has now largely a market economy. The few areas where there are controls or subsidies are soon to give way to market prices. But the markets to which the official statisticians

go are not the same as those to which the people go. Undoubtedly those who rule the country from the capital have a way of mistaking it for the whole country, but the federal statistical department is functioning in several cities in the country. So they ought to know better than the kind of prices of essential commodities quoted by the finance minister in the Majlis-i-Shoora. For, the gap between the painful market reality and the statistical illusion is too large, and makes collection of statistics in this regard an exercise in futility, and in fact an act of provocation to the consumers reeling under the impact of the giddy price rise.

It is wrong of officialdom to assume that the problem of soaring prices or shortages can be solved through a few utility stores, fair price shops and juma bazaars [Friday market]. If the problem was so easy to solve, there would have been little of inflation in the world today. And, we on our part, would have readily suggested an increase in the number of juma bazaars and utility stores, using a part of the money spent wastefully on such statistical collection to subsidise the shops. But the problems cannot be solved in this manner, and have not been despite the increase in the number of such officially sponsored sale outlets. The problems are not merely distributive but also structural, and are the outcome of the government's fiscal and monetary policies, and the high rate of profit that has become the norm for industrialists as well as the entire spectrum of traders, from the wholesalers to the retailers.

The finance minister ought to visit the markets outside of Islamabad personally from time to time and see things for himself. He says there has been a nominal increase of 2.8 per cent in beef prices and 3.1 per cent in mutton prices. He may be right if he means a monthly increase, but that is not possibly what he meant.

The district magistrate of Lahore raised mutton prices from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 and beef prices from Rs. 9 to Rs. 11, an increase of 22 percent in both cases, and not the 2.8 and 3.1 percent he had spoken of. But in reality, report newspapers from Lahore, mutton is being sold at Rs. 28 and beef at Rs. 14. In Karachi mutton is being sold at Rs. 32 and beef at Rs. 18 after recording a rise of about 33 percent within six months.

But the finance minister has much of a strong faith in his computer projections as he has in the calculations of his statisticians that when oil prices were pushed up in January he said the freight rate would increase by only one paisa per maund per mile, bus fare two-third of a paisa per mile and taxis by ten paisa per mile. But in reality the increases on these accounts have been far larger, and where they have not been officially increased, as in the case of taxis or autorickshaws, the fare rise has been exorbitant. The finance minister should hence either change his directives to the statistical department or revamp the whole department. Otherwise the government will continue to add statistical insult to the financial injury the people have been suffering without a let-up at all.

AFP: Benazir Bhutto Asks To Go to Paris,
OW061838 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 6 (AFP) — Benazir Bhutto, detained here for almost two years, has asked to go to Paris to attend her ailing mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, sources close to the family said here today.

Miss Bhutto, 29, is the daughter of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She has been held under preventive detention by the martial law government since march 1981 following the hijacking of a Pakistan International Airlines jumbo jet to Kabul by supporters of the late Mr. Bhutto.

Miss Bhutto is bitter opponent of General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, who toppled Mr. Bhutto in 1972. Sources said Miss Bhutto also wanted to obtain medical treatment for a persistent ear ailment.

The press has recently reported a deterioration in Begum Bhutto's health and sources said she had asked to see her daughter. Mr. Bhutto's two sons, Murtuza and Shah Nawaz are in exile abroad.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,565

*LD061834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Communique No 1,565 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the fronts of the imposed war is brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots:

Sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday between our forces and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Marivan fronts. On these fronts, the combatants of Islam, while consolidating their defensive positions, dispatching patrol groups, and opening heavy artillery fire on the positions, supply routes, and motorized columns of the enemy, brought the enemy's movements and traffic under their surveillance. Setting fire to sections of the enemy positions in each area, they killed or wounded a number of enemy servicemen. On these fronts, three vehicles of the Iraqi forces in the Darband region were destroyed and one of their motorized columns in the Marivan border region suffered major damage.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, our combatants continued defensive measures in the area concerned, cleared minefields, and with full vigilance brought the Iraqi forces' construction operations and patrol activities under control. By firing on enemy positions and fortifications, they silenced their fire and disrupted the construction activities and supply vehicle traffic of the Saddamist mercenaries. On these fronts, several light and heavy vehicles of the Iraqi forces and several group and individual positions, along with a number of their occupants, were destroyed.

In a region in Ilam, enemy patrols intended to penetrate the defensive positions of the heroes of Islam but our combatants routed them, inflicting losses and casualties.

On the southern fronts and the Arvand Rud operational zone, exchanges of fire continued sporadically between our forces and the enemy. The combatants of Islam, returning fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and batteries, stopped the enemy fire and disrupted operational activities and the consolidation of the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries. By dispatching patrol groups, they also foiled the patrol operations of the Iraqi forces. On these fronts, sections of the frontline positions of the enemy were set on fire, a number of light and heavy weapons of the Iraqi forces were destroyed, and a number of their servicemen were killed or wounded.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under the periodic fire of the enemy's long-range weapons.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for Damascus

*GF061414 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 6 Dec 83*

[Text] Brother Lavasani, general director of the Asia-Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, leading a delegation comprising ministry officials, today left Tehran for Damascus to follow up issues related to Tripoli and Lebanon. During this visit, Brother Lavasani will convey Foreign Minister Velayati's letter to his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Brother Lavasani paid a similar visit to Syria and the Lebanese town of Tripoli last week accompanied by Brother Mirsaleh, the president's adviser. They held talks with religious and political officials in Tripoli.

Martyrs Foundation To Send 4,000 to Syria

*LD061157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Excerpts] The official responsible for the Martyrs Foundation's international relations has announced in an interview with IRNA, that as decided by the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation and with the cooperation of the hajj and pilgrimage organization, the Martyrs Foundation will send 4,000 from the honorable families of martyrs, missing, and POW's from all over the country to Syria this coming year. He said: One thousand people will be sent per week, from 10 January, for 4 weeks.

Concerning the dispatch to Syria of the war disabled who are abroad, the foundation's supervisor for international relations said: Since the dispatch of those brothers to Syria would entail more problems as far as traveling and staying are concerned, naturally, more facilities should be provided. We are reviewing and preparing these facilities. When they are ready, those brothers will be sent.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 'Serious U.S. Threat'

*LD061233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
6 Dec 83*

[Correspondent report]

[Excerpt] The Islamic Majlis had an open session this morning. Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired the session and said in a speech:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The attack by American planes and — according to some sources — the joint attack by American, French, and Israeli forces on the central heights of oppressed Lebanon and the fighting and unyielding Syrian forces can become an extremely important issue on the international level and can be considered a dangerous act of adventurism. This is an

unannounced pact between the enemies of Islam in Islamic lands. It is a serious threat to the future of the world of Islam, and especially the Arab world. We take this threat very seriously and cannot remain indifferent toward this presumptuous act carried out by America, this uninvited guest, in the region.

Since the conference of OPEC oil ministers will be having its sessions soon, we expect the Islamic nations and governments to use oil as a weapon to exert pressure on America and its allies in order to put an end to their shameless support for Israel.

It is an act of defiance against Islam when the American and French defense ministers officially announce their cooperation with Israel. After suspicious meetings held in Washington, now there is talk of an unofficial alliance which is followed by an attack on the forces of an Islamic country in Lebanon in a disgraceful manner. This is not something to be treated lightly. This is caused by the weakness and discord prevailing in the Arab world and in the world of Islam, in spite of the fact that we hold the most effective weapon. We believe that from this very day, now that this threat is felt, the question of a withdrawal of the American forces and those of its allies from the waters of the region, the Indian Ocean, and the Mediterranean Sea should be raised. Their presence would always present the danger of a great fire breaking out in the region. It is unfortunate that the seemingly Islamic countries and Muslims, not only have not learned from this bitter experience, but are observing the incident with satisfaction and consider the United States their protector.

Presently, the conference of Islamic countries has a session of foreign ministers in Bangladesh, there is another Islamic conference in Pakistan, and there is the oil ministers session and other international Islamic sessions being held in different places. They should pay attention to this issue and exert pressure to ensure that, God willing, we will be rid in the future of the great danger posed by the superpowers in the region. [end recording]

At today's open session, the letter sent by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, introducing the ministers of agriculture, mines and metals, and housing, was discussed for a vote of confidence. The text of the prime minister's letter is:

In His exalted name, Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, honorable speaker of the Islamic Majlis: According to Article 136 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the list of the names of brothers proposed to take over the Ministries of Mines and Metal, Agriculture, and Housing who have been approved by the president, is hereby presented to the Majlis for a vote of confidence.

1. Ministry of Mines and Metals: — Brother Eng Hoseyn Nili-Ahmadabadi.
2. Ministry of Agriculture: — Brother Dr 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.
3. Ministry of Housing: — Brother Eng Mohammad Morovvat.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Majlis Approves 2 of 3 Ministerial Appointments

LD071129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly gave a vote of confidence to the ministers of agriculture and mines and metals. During this morning's open session, chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali with 107 votes for, 21 against, and 42 abstentions and Hoseyn Nili-Ahmadabadi with 102 votes for, 23 against, and 35 abstentions received a vote of confidence from the Islamic Consultative Assembly as ministers of agriculture and mines and metals, respectively.

The proposed minister of housing did not receive the required number of votes.

NVOI Criticizes Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks

TA062030 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Dec

[Unattributed commentary: "Invitation to Aggressor America Under Mask of Struggle Against World Arrogance"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: These days the Islamic Republic of Iran's mass media are carrying numerous items about events in Lebanon and America's military interventions and aggressions in this country. In these long commentaries — which are full of contradictions and singularly motivated, usually to mislead the people — now and then reference is also made to the danger of military aggression and to the hegemonistic policy of U.S. imperialism in our region.

Indeed, U.S. imperialism and its allies, with their extensive military intervention in Lebanon, are not only bringing our region but also the world closer to the brink of a calamitous tragedy. The recent bombing of Palestinian forces as well as Syrian military forces in Lebanese territory by the United States should be regarded as the prelude to a dangerous and catastrophic plot which, if not prevented, could well cost the people of our region and mankind dearly.

It is essential to devote attention to the fact that in order to promote its aggressive aims, world-devouring America exploits every means and uses every ploy and every pretext and excuse. This is known by everyone; yet in our own country some people wittingly and others probably unwittingly — by their deeds, expressions, muscle-flexing, and hollow threats — in practice encourage and instigate world-devouring America in the implementation of its aggressive plans and present America with a pretext. Consider for example the speeches, sermons, and interviews of some of our country's authorities. For example, pay special attention to the recent speeches of Mr Rafsanjani, head of our country's legislative power, and see how in his Friday prayer sermon he raises the issue of confrontation against world-devouring America and its plots.

Mr Rafsanjani does not say anything explicit to the people about the direct aggression by America and its allies against Lebanon

and about America's aggressive plans in the Persian Gulf. He raises the issue under the pretext of the probability of adventurism by international aggressors in the Persian Gulf. The people have the right to ask: Who are these international aggressors and why do you raise the issue in such a two-sided manner?

Later on Mr Rafsanjani says: We should be ready for the day when we will retaliate against these aggressions. Then he adds: If they do not come after us, we should go after them. The meaning of this statement is: Oh, aggressive America and oh, aggressive Israel, before we move against you, you move against us. Mr Rafsanjani does not let this suffice and says later on: If we were to engage them in something we would gain the upper hand, adding: Instead of their dragging the war to the vicinity of the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait, we should take the war to Israel's borders; instead of allowing our Bandar 'Abbas becoming the target of their attack, we should attack Tel Aviv.

These are the exact remarks by the head of the legislative power and spokesman of the country's Supreme Defense Council. Any school child also knows that such statements by government figures of the Islamic Republic, as well as their irresponsible acts and deeds, whether willingly or not and whether wittingly or unwittingly, are tantamount to inviting U.S. imperialism and Israel to commit aggression against Iran and to escalate their military presence in our region. America and Israel yearn for such threats and muscle-flexings so that, by resorting to them, they may justify their military aggression against our homeland and the Persian Gulf. It is not clear on the basis of which right and authority these gentlemen — the authorities in our country — are playing games with the destiny of the nation and homeland in such a manner. It seems that such a large number of dead and maimed as a result of the war of attrition with Iraq has not soothed the minds of these gentlemen, and now they are seeking another adventure and tragedy.

Our heroic nation will stand up steadfastly against every aggressor, but it will not allow rulers of the Islamic Republic to turn our homeland into an arena of aggression by U.S. imperialism, under the mask of struggle against so-called international arrogance.

Nateq-Nuri Discusses Support for Afghan Refugees
LD061849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1738 GMT
6 Dec 83

[Text] Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri this afternoon participated in a radio, television, and press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents.

Regarding the recent clashes in Tehran and Varamin which have occurred in the name of the Afghans, he said: On the basis of our principle to support the oppressed and the deprived — a mainstay of our ideology and revolution — we have always supported the Muslim Afghan nation and have condemned the aggression against Afghanistan and its occupation by the Soviet Union in the same way that we have condemned the aggression against Iran by American agents. We believe aggression is part of the nature of the superpowers, although in different names.

He said: In the same way we support our own deprived people, our Islamic duty dictates that we should support Afghanistan. Afghan refugees are like our own war refugees. Both are fugitives and have lost their loved ones and homes. In view of that, we treat them exactly like our own war refugees. Some of them are Afghan mujahidin whose lives and children are under the shelter of the Islamic Republic. Some of them are fighting against the Zionist regime of Saddam in the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood. A number of them live in our camps and when UN representatives came to Iran after visiting our camps for Afghan refugees in Zahedan they declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran has treated the Afghans with the greatest degree of hospitality. This is a source of pride to us.

The interior minister added: We have about one and a half million Afghans in Iran. Of course, there is some movement in the border provinces and a number of them come and go. Another source of pride is the participation of the Muslim Afghans in the war between truth and falsehood. This issue causes a great deal of pain to our enemies.

Therefore, the enemies are trying very hard to create conspiracies involving these Afghan brothers and to do something to distort the features of our Afghan brothers to the Iranian nation. The other method is to portray the Afghans as bullying, aggressive robbers and rowdy troublemakers so that, in this way, they can arouse the feelings and emotions of our nation against them and so that the nation might ask the government to expel the Afghans from Iran, enabling them to implement their plans.

Nateq-Nuri added: Of course, there are a number of people among them who, apart from those who are Soviet agents, are American spies. However, most of the Afghans are committed Muslims and hard-working individuals who observe the laws of our country, so much so that so far more than one million Afghans have received identity cards. This shows that they are committed to observe the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It should be added that the political parties and Muslim groups have welcomed this step, so that their identity may be known and so that those rowdy elements who are Soviet or American spies may be identified and recognized.

The interior minister said: When we were issuing identity cards, some of those individuals who were not willing to receive identity cards left Iran. The crimes referred to by the Soviet Union are the works of small minorities who are American or Soviet agents. In the recent events in Iran, certain hands have been involved and they are not unconnected with the approaching anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

Nateq-Nuri said: In last Friday's event on Mowlavi Street in Tehran, two people had a fight, one of whom was killed. A short while later, in the same square which is close to where the Afghans congregate, a number of people took part in a march and they would grab and beat up any Afghan they could find. In Varamin, too, a number of Afghans had been seized from their places of work or elsewhere. It is clear that there had been a planned operation. This coincidence seemed a bit suspicious to us. After these events, it was rumored that 20 to 50 people had

been killed. But all of these rumors were untrue and only two people were killed during those events. In my capacity as interior minister, I deny all these rumors and ask the Iranian people that should such an event take place they should treat it with utmost vigilance. [sentence as heard]

Continuing his interview and referring to various broadcasts by foreign radios concerning these events and while clarifying the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the interior minister said: These radios are looking for something to exploit. They have nothing against us, they are trying to increase tension. We cannot expect them to do anything else. If foreign radios praise the government, then we should feel suspicious about our revolution. By such things, they want to place a question mark over Iran and demonstrate the government's weakness. On the other hand, they want to malign our Afghan brothers and arouse the emotions of the Iranian nation against the Afghans.

Concerning the methods of the participation of various parties in the elections and its conditions, the interior minister said: Only those people can take part in the elections who would not be included in the 10-point statement of the revolution prosecutor and who are not at war against the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Certain people want to cast doubt upon these elections, while their own positions are questionable, and they know that our nation is wakeful.

Nateq-Nuri concluded: Simultaneously with the elections for the second session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, we will also hold the midterm elections for the Council of Experts.

Trial Against Tudeh, Former Navy Commander Begins *GF061654 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 6 Dec 83*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 6, IRNA — The trial of three [as received] members of the secret military wing of the defunct Tudeh Party began in the tribunal of the Islamic revolution today, at the presence of former secretary general of the party, Nureddin Kianuri and other Tudeh officials.

Today's trial was against former Navy Commander Bahram 'Afzali, who was arrested last spring soon after the confessions of the Tudeh Party members in prison. He was the only person being tried and the two other accused were not present at the court.

Kianuri was attending the trial to provide information about the relationship of 'Afzali and the other two accused with the Tudeh Party.

In an introduction before the start of the trial, the chief of the military tribunal, Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammadi Reyshahri said that the trial showed Iran's neither East nor West policy. It does not matter for the Islamic revolution to try those involved in the American Nojeh coup (in the early summer of 1980) or the servants of the East and the Soviet Union, he said.

Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammadi Reyshahri said that the role of the military members in the affairs of the Tudeh Party itself was very insignificant in terms of numbers. He added that the military

members were about 200 and had infiltrated the police, gendarmerie and army forces. We are not trying them as military individuals, because the Muslim people of Iran know them as traitors and spies...he said.

Kianuri and other senior Tudeh members were arrested in February, as they were ready to escape the country with false identifications. On April 30, they appeared on television and admitted their involvement in espionage activities for the Soviet Union and holding arms for the military wing.

We used to send reports on the military and political matters (of Iran) to the Soviet Union...that which was related to the over-all politics of Iran was analysed by me and a report would be sent to the Soviet Union every once in a while, Kianuri said in his first confessions on national television.

He also said that reports from the Iranian Armed Forces were obtained from various sources and this was the greatest offense on our part which was an act of treason.

The other two accused, Colonel Hushang Attarian and Colonel Bijan Kabiri, will go on trial in the later stages of the court procedures.

The prosecutor has called on the tribunal to punish 'Afzali as a mufsid fil-art (corrupt on earth) and a muharbib (seditionist). The prosecutor said in his indictment against 'Afzali that the short-term objectives of the secret military wing were to further infiltrate military organisations in the country and attract more members with Marxist tendencies to gather strategic information about the armed forces and the Iraqi imposed war.

The long-term objectives, he added, were to push the Islamic Republic towards a close relationship with the Eastern block and eventually seize power at an appropriate moment.

In his defence, 'Afzali told the tribunal that he acted as a tool in the hands of the Tudeh leaders.

The information which I provided the Tudeh Party from the military's classified material were [as received] mostly top secret, 'Afzali said.

He said he had been a member of the Tudeh Party's youth organisation in the early years of his high school (in the early 1950's) and he was once arrested in 1954, a year after the shah's coup d'etat with the help of the CIA. He was released after some time and broke contact with the Tudeh until the Islamic revolution.

After the Islamic revolution, after some 20 or so years, I accepted a request to join the Tudeh Party during an accidental meeting with a man named Khatib, at a time when I did not have enough knowledge about the party's recent activities, he said.

When I used to analyse things for myself I felt the necessity for a leftist party in order to overcome the problems of the country and directing the country towards (economic) justice and equality.

The party members frequently emphasised in their meetings with me to establish contact with the country's high-ranking officials and give them (the Tudeh members) information about the latest developments and official policies in the country, especially concerning the Tudeh Party.

'Afzali wept over his actions against the Muslim people of Iran and requested pardon from Imam Khomeyni, the Muslim people of Iran and the tribunal.

Nureddin Kianuri said during the trial that he and other leaders of the Tudeh Party were trying to create a crisis in the country and gather enough force to act against the Islamic Republic. But, he added, since the Islamic revolution was growing stronger each day and, on the other hand, the (Tudeh) Party had a small force, it was not possible to do anything significant. Kianuri said that the Tudeh had committed great offenses against the Islamic Republic, most importantly the gathering of intelligence material and espionage for the Soviet Union.

Despite the fact that we see ourselves as intellectuals, we and others still cannot understand the strength of religious philosophy and the deep penetration of religion among the hard-working masses, especially the peasants and the workers. For this reason they (intellectuals) think that they can attract the religious people with their political and social activities.

One other participant in the trial, Mahdi Partavi, a high-ranking member of the secret military wing, said that the Tudeh Party was trying to create a catastrophe in Iran and create a situation similar to Afghanistan.

Free Voice of Iran Condemns Tudeh Trial

GF061036 (Clandestine) *Free Voice of Iran in Persian*
1500 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The treacheries of the leaders of the Tudeh Party are not hidden from any of you. Since 1942, leaders of the Tudeh Party blocked formation to any nationalist government in Iran. They participated in and were responsible for the short annexation of Azarbadegan [old name for Azarbayjan], the holy and indivisible soil of Iran, to the Soviet Union. The treacherous leaders of the Tudeh Party also spilled the blood of the fighters struggling for the liberation of Iran through the hands of the turbaned religion-sellers in the past 4 years and tried to neutralize Iranian patriots and freedom fighters in their struggle against the usurping, illegal, bloody, and armed-to-the-teeth regime of the so-called Islamic Republic.

Now, the usurping regime is taking its own allies and cronies to court in order to misuse the noble and pure nationalist feelings of Iranian men and women — during the month of Azar, this epic-making month of which its 21st day [12 December] is its most notable because it is the anniversary of the liberation of Azarbayjan — who are celebrating the return of Azarbadegan to the motherland in order to portray themselves as part of the Iranian nation. They hope that by spilling further fresh blood and the murder of the Tudehis and through the use of the contrived unjust courts they can manage to destroy all the living proof of the anti-Iranian plots of the regime of the mullahs.

The Free Voice of Iran, the nationalist and independent radio of all Iranians opposing the occupying regime in Iran, notes that the so-called Islamic Republic is considered the most traitorous regime in Iranian history and the treacherous leaders of this traitorous regime are not qualified to hold court for the traitorous leaders of the Tudeh Party. They do not have the true purity either. Their aim is to quench the anger of the Iranian nation against the so-called Islamic Republic through the execution of the traitorous Tudehis in the month of Azar. Their goal is to hide the proof of the regime's collusion with the Tudeh Party in order to continue to govern and crush the nationalist Iranian forces. The leaders of the so-called Islamic Republic do not have any qualifications for trying the self-confessed Tudeh traitors either in the unjust Armed Forces courts or the unjust revolution courts and the trial must be held in a national court in the presence of honorable and true judges.

The Free Voice of Iran therefore condemns the trial of the traitorous leaders of the communist Tudeh Party in the hands of the agents of the so-called Islamic Republic in the unjust courts of this regime and asks its compatriots to avoid aiding or cooperating with a regime which has carried out its murders and blood spilling of the children of Iran with the aid and cooperation of the Tudeh Party over the past 4 years.

The traitorous leaders of the Tudeh Party must be tried in a national government and inside a nationalist and qualified court and be punished for their treachery.

Fate of Nehzat-e Azadi Members Questioned

GF070800 (Clandestine) *Radio Iran in Persian* 1330 GMT
6 Dec 83

[Text] Sources close to Nehzat-e Azadi state that nothing is known about the fate of the two student members of the organization who were arrested and taken to Evin Prison during the attack by armed men and club-wielders against the organization's office located in Tehran's Takht-e Tawus Avenue.

We remind you that the office of Nehzat-e Azadi was the target of armed attack by the Islamic regime after an announcement concerning a seminar to ensure the freedom of elections and an invitation to the public to participate in this seminar. A number of its leaders including Mo'infar, Ebrahim Yazdi, and Sabbagian were beaten up and others, including two student members of the organization, were arrested by Asadollah Lajvardi's gang and taken to Evin.

Khomeyni Receives Two Officials 6 December

LD061248 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian* 1030 GMT
6 Dec 83

[Text] Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sarhadizadeh, accompanied by ministry under secretaries, and Hojjat ol-Islam Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, were received separately this morning by Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.